

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-17, and 20-26 are currently pending. Claims 3-6, 20-22, 24 and 26 are canceled. Thus, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 7-10, 12-17, 23, and 25 will be pending. Claim 17 has been allowed.

I. 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-6, 12 and 20-22 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner states that claims 1, 3-6 and 20-22 are substantial duplicates. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, to expedite prosecution, these claims have been canceled.

The Examiner also states that claim 12 is unclear. Applicant has clarified the claim by a non-narrowing amendment. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that all of the rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

II. 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 7-10, 12-16, and 23-26 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as non-enabled. Specifically, the Examiner states that use of an organic solvent, application of heat, and neutralization with acid are each necessary aspects of the invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

To expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 7 to recite heating a mixture of a basic salt solution and an organic solvent, a preferred embodiment of the invention.

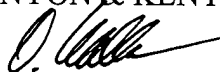
One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate, upon reviewing the specification, that neutralizing with acid is an optional step of the invention. On p. 4, l. 9, of the specification, for example, it is stated that “[t]he neutralization step causes the carboxy-NMPP dihydrate to precipitate.” Thus, it is clear that the carboxy-NMPP dihydrate has already formed and that the neutralization step is merely a preferred means of recovering the dihydrate. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments and allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be necessary for consideration of this paper to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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